



You will be receiving one of these letters every week throughout your child's year of third grade. Each letter is a glimpse into what he or she has to focus on this week in reading and language arts. Use the different sections of this letter to stimulate conversations with your child about what he or she is learning.

Big Idea: What does *respect* mean to you?

Your child should think about ways each reading selection over the next six weeks can answer this question.

This week's reading selection: *The Origami Master*

Summary: Shima, a paper-folding master, lives alone in the mountains. One day he is joined by a warbler with even more impressive origami skills. As Shima seeks to discover the bird's secrets, he also learns a valuable life lesson.

Essential Questions: How important is friendship? Why should you respect and support your friends?

► **DISCUSS** with your child ways that he or she can show respect for other people's work.

Vocabulary

Focus: The words below appear in this week's reading selection.

alighted	<i>verb</i>	landed from flight
amazement	<i>noun</i>	extreme wonder or surprise
dusk	<i>noun</i>	the time of day just before nightfall
evening	<i>noun</i>	early nighttime
examined	<i>verb</i>	looked at closely and carefully
forth	<i>adverb</i>	forward into view
lair	<i>noun</i>	a home or resting place, especially of a wild animal
magnificent	<i>adjective</i>	very beautiful or splendid
master	<i>noun</i>	a person who has great skill, ability, or knowledge in something
opinion	<i>noun</i>	a belief based on a person's judgment rather than what is proven
origami	<i>noun</i>	the Japanese art of folding paper into the form of various objects
warbler	<i>noun</i>	a small songbird with bright colors

► **USE** these words while discussing the reading selection.

Spelling

Focus: This week your child will spell words with long vowels (*a*, *i*, and *o*) and compound words.

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|--------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. blaze | 6. armrest | 11. sunset |
| 2. choke | 7. hotdog | 12. popcorn |
| 3. blackbird | 8. item | 13. hilltop |
| 4. total | 9. smile | 14. wild |
| 5. tame | 10. major | 15. barnyard |

Challenge

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|---------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. poem | 2. grateful | 3. footprints |
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► **HAVE** your child practice spelling these words.

Language Arts

Writing: Your child will do prewriting and drafting for an opinion piece. He or she will learn elements of opinion writing (topic sentence that states an opinion, three reasons, and a concluding sentence).

Grammar: Your child will also be learning about nouns (people, places, things, ideas) this week.

► **ASK** your child for his or her opinion about something. Discuss nouns your child uses and whether they represent a person, place, thing, or idea.